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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,128

09/29/2005

Shoji Yuyama

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WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.

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SUITE 800

WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

DURAND, PAUL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,128	Applicant(s) YUYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner PAUL R. DURAND	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 6-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inamura et al. (US 5,097,652) in view of Jones (US 5,468,080) in further view of Zelnick et al (US 3,191,356).

Inamura discloses the invention as claimed including packing sheet 41, printing means 45, sealer 44, provided with a conveyance portion generally defined by the path of travel, tension means 43, for tensioning a length of the package and moving means in the form of transport rollers 46, which moves the packing sheet through the machine (See figures 1, 2 and col. 4, line 52 – col. 5, line 19).

What Inamura does not disclose is tension control mechanism to hold the packing sheet at a constant value and a position detector. However, Jones teaches that it is old and well known in the art of packaging to provide moving and urging means (generally indicate by arm 18), which comes into contact with the packing web “F” and position detecting means 20, functioning as a sensor, which determines the location of the moving means and the web tension for the purpose of providing and maintaining proper tension on a web of material (See figure 1 and col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 19).

Furthermore, Zelnick teaches that it is old and well known in the art to provide a tension mechanism comprised of ascending and descending mechanism 62, which is biased by spring 50a for the purpose of maintaining a desired tension in a film web (See figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the invention of Inamura with the positional and tensional means as taught by Jones and the linear moving means as taught by Zelnick for the purpose of providing and maintaining proper tension on a web of material.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, filed 5/16/2008, with respect to claims 1 and 6 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 has been withdrawn.

The examiner agrees with applicant arguments that the combination of Inamura, Jones and Zelnick do not teach nor disclose the operational ability of the printing means to initiate a printing operation in response to a sensor detecting the movement means, which controls the tension of the film. As the examiner has interpreted claims 1 and 6, the apparatus requires a movement of the movement means, in response to a tension

change in the film. This movement is detected by a magnetic sensor, which then initiates the printing operation.

However in claim 5, this condition is not present as the print means, as claimed, is not dependent upon a change in tension of the web, which in turn provides movement for the movement member. As claimed, the claim only requires a film movement and a change and detection in the tension of the film. As such, the rejection of claim 5 is proper and maintained.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL R. DURAND whose telephone number is

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(571)272-4459. The examiner can normally be reached on 0830-1700, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Paul R. Durand/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3721
August 22, 2008